

In the claims.

1. A method to provide a hierarchical call control suitable for a cordless  
5 telephone system having a base station operable in a broadcast mode and a standard  
mode communicatively coupled to a plurality of mobile units, comprising:

receiving a call;

10 identifying a phone number associated with the call;

identifying a priority level associated with the number; and

15 forwarding the call to a specific mobile unit based upon the priority  
level.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

broadcasting the incoming message from the base station during a  
single time slot of a time division;

20 receiving the incoming message at the plurality of mobile units; and

converting the incoming message into sound by the plurality of mobile  
units.

25 3. The method, as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

placing the plurality of mobile units in a receiving mode.

4. The method, as recited in claim 3, wherein the placing the plurality of mobile units in a receiving mode comprises synchronizing the plurality of mobile units to the single time slot .

5 5. The method, as recited in claim 4, wherein setting the base station to the broadcast mode comprises designating the single time slot.

6. The method, as recited in claim 5, wherein at least one of the plurality of mobile units is a hands free unit, wherein converting the audio message into sound 10 by the hands free unit is automatic, and wherein the placing of the plurality of mobile units in a receiving mode places the plurality of mobile units in a receive only mode.

7. The method, as recited in claim 6, further comprising:  
originating broadcast origination signal at an additional mobile unit;  
15 transmitting a broadcast origination signal from the additional mobile unit to the base part; and  
transmitting the audio message from the additional mobile unit to the base part.

20 8. The method, as recited in claim 7, wherein placing the plurality of mobile units in a receive only mode, comprises turning on only speakers of the plurality of mobile units without turning on microphones of the plurality of mobile units.

25 9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein setting the base station to the standard mode comprises synchronizing those plurality of mobile units not desiring to converse with the caller to another time slot that is different than the single time slot.

30 10. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said specific mobile unit is associated only with a particular mobile unit identifier.

11. A system for providing a hierarchical call control paradigm in a cordless phone system, comprising:

5 a base station operable in a broadcast mode and a standard mode;

10 a plurality of mobile units communicatively coupled to the base station;

15 a directory server coupled to the base station;

20 a phone number database included in or coupled to the directory server arranged to store any number of phone numbers,

25 a caller identification database coupled to the phone number database arranged to store a caller identifier uniquely associated with a phone number corresponding to a received phone call; and

30 a priority level data base coupled to the caller identification data base arranged to provide a priority level for the caller identifier, wherein when the phone call is received, the directory server identifies a phone number of the received call, identifies a caller based upon a retrieved caller identifier associated with the identified phone number, retrieves a priority level for the identified caller, and forwards the call to a specific mobile unit based upon the priority level.

25 12. A system as recited in claim 11, wherein the priority level is selected from a group comprising: a lowest priority (DO NOT DISTURB), an intermediate priority, and a highest priority.

30 13. A system as recited in claim 12, wherein when the priority level is the lowest priority, then the incoming call is not forwarded to any of the plurality of mobile units.

14. A system as recited in claim 12, wherein when the priority level is the highest priority level, then the incoming call is broadcast to all mobile units.

15. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the system further comprises

a mobile unit identifier data base coupled to the directory server arranged to provide a mobile unit identifier.

16. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the priority level is the intermediate priority level, the mobile unit identifier data base provides a mobile unit identifier arranged to identify a selected one of the plurality of mobile units suitably configured to receive the incoming call.
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